[21st March 1955

Payment to contractors under National Extension Service Scheme.

* 1524 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the works, taken up for execution under National Extension Service Scheme in Tiruvallur taluk, could not be executed for want of contractors, due to the fact that the contractors were not paid properly within a reasonable time;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have made any enquiry as to the reasons for the delay in payment of amount due to the contractors; and

(*c*) if so, the result of the enquiry and the arrangements made for early payment?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that lawyer notices were also issued to the officers concerned to show cause why Court proceedings should not be taken against them for not having paid the amount within a reasonable time? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have no information with me saying that lawyer notices were issued. But I have this information that the hon. Member's father was a contractor and that there was a complaint about the delay in the payment of bills due to him. But it was pointed out that the delay was caused on account of the agreement not having been signed by the party; subsequently, the agreement was signed and then the payment of the bills was facilitated."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over. We shall take up the motion of the hon. Member Sri K. V. Ramaswami under rule 40 . . ."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has given some other answer . . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may send me another question. I want fresh notice. I have already announced that questions were over. Now we are on the next item of the agenda."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" On a point of order, Sir. Among the papers laid on the table of the House, I find G.O.Ms. No. 4263, Home, dated 7th November 1951. There is no question or any other matter pertaining to the matter referred to in the Government Order. May I know the relevancy of placing it on 21st March 1955 on the table of the House, when the Government Order is dated 7th November 1951? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall look into that."

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Sri M. DHARMALINGAM :—" On a point of order, Sir. The Hon. Minister has acted on the information furnished by the department concerned having faith in it. I can say that it is an incorrect statement . . ."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Is this a point of order? "

Sri M. DHARMALINGAM :—" I say it is an incorrect statement, because almost all the persons who have taken and executed works under the National Extension Service have not been paid their dues within a reasonable time, but only have been paid after long delays. I have also brought this to the notice of the Government that this was going on. The Hon. Minister has not enquired into the matter to a greater extent to find out whether the allegations are correct or incorrect; but he has come forward to say that he is the father of the M.L.A., etc."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I must state at once, Sir, that I did cause an enquiry to be made on receipt of the question by the hon. Member and the only information is what I have presented to the House, namely, that there was only a particular case where one party had not been paid relating to a well work at Alagiripet cheri; the party is one Sri Murugesan, the father of Sri Dharmalingam, M.L.A. and the delay was with the Assistant Engineer in preparation of the bill. It was stated that the bill was not prepared for want of agreement being signed by the party. Later on, the agreement was executed by the party on 27th December 1954 and a copy of the agreement was sent to the Assistant Engineer (Special), Saidapet, the bill was duly passed and sent to the Block Development Officer for effecting payment; the Block Development Officer has also stated that he would make the payment as soon as the necessary revised sanction is obtained."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Questions over. Sri K. V. Ramaswami will now move the motion under rule 40."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

III.—MOTION UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* FIRE ACCIDENT AT VARAGUR VILLAGE OF SALEM DISTRICT.

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சென்ற மாதம் 26ந்தேதியன்று நாமக்கல் தாலூக்காவில் இருக்கக்கூடிய வரகூர் என்ற கிராமத்தில் திடீரென்று ஒரு பெரிய தீ விபத்து ஏற்பட்டது. அந்த தீ விபத்தின் காரணமாக அங்கு மிகப் பெரிய சேதம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த விபத்து ஏற்பட்டவுடனேயே அந்த ஊரிலுள்ள வாலிபர்கள் பெரு முயற்சி எடுத்து தீயை அணைக்கவும் ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள். அதோடு போஸ்டாபீஸ் மூலமாக டிரங்க் டெலிபோனில் பேசி சேலத்தில் இருக்கக் கூடிய தீ அணைக்கும் படையினரின் உதவியையும் கோரினார்கள். ஆனால் 40, 50 மைலுக்கு அப்பாலுள்ள அந்தத் தீ அணைக்கும் படையினர் வருவதற்கும், இந்த வரகூர் கிராமத்தில் பிடித்துக்கொண்ட தீ அடங்குவதற்கும் சரியாகப் போய்விட்டது. நாமக்கல் தாலூக்காவிற்குப் பக்கத்திலேயே Fire Service இல்லாததினால் தான் அன்றைக்கு தீ அணைக்கும் படையினரின் உதவி கிடைக்காமலேயே போய்விட்டது. அதனால் 35 குடும் 9-20 a.m.